

REMARKS

Reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims, in view of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

In the Supplemental Office Action dated January 12, 2006, the Examiner rejected claim 1, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by Ohsato '397 (U.S. Patent No. 4,631,397); rejected claims 2 and 4, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Ohsato '397; and rejected claims 3 and 5, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Ohsato '397 in view of Kubota '902A (JP 60213902A).

The Examiner also objected to claim 6 as being in improper multiple dependent form.

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 6 have been amended to provide a better presentation of the claimed subject matter and new dependent claim 7 has been added. Applicant submits that no new matter has been introduced. Applicant further submits that, by virtue of the changes to claim 6, the claim is now in proper form and the immediate withdrawal of the objection to claim 6 is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection of the claims, under §102(b) and §103(a), and therefore, respectfully traverses the same.

I. Prior Art Rejections of Claim 1.

As noted above, independent claim 1, as amended, positively recites that the optical element comprises organic/inorganic composite material, in which the organic/inorganic composite material is made of organic component and inorganic component which are mixed in complex with each other. Such features are amply supported by the embodiments disclosed in the written description. (See, Originally-Filed Specification: page 10, line 11 - page 11, line 19).

Applicant submits that, in contrast to the Examiner's assertions, claim 1 is patentable over Ohsato '397 because the reference clearly fails to teach or suggest each and every feature recited by the claims, including the features identified above. In particular, Ohsato '397 discloses the use of a composite lens 30 and specifically provides that composite lens 30

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consists of a glass single lens 30 α and a plastic single lens 30 β which are bonded or cemented together. (See, e.g., Ohsato '397: col. 15, lines 47-54; FIGs. 35-36).

In so doing, Ohsato '397 clearly fails to teach or suggest that the optical element comprises organic/inorganic composite material, in which the organic/inorganic composite material is made of organic component and inorganic component which are mixed in complex with each other, as required by claim 1. In fact, Ohsato '397 effectively teaches away from such a feature.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Ohsato '397 does not describe each and every feature claim 1 and cannot, therefore, anticipate claim 1, or for that matter, render claim 1 unpatentable. Accordingly, the immediate withdrawal of the prior art rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested. And, because claims 2-6 depend, either directly or indirectly from claim 1, claims 2-6 are patentable at least by virtue of dependency as well as for their additional recitations. As such, the immediate withdrawal of the prior art rejections of claims 2-6 is also respectfully requested.

Moreover, because new claim 7 depends from claim 1, claim 7 is also patentable at least by virtue of dependency as well as for its additional recitations.

All matters having been addressed and in view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the immediate allowance of all pending claims.

Applicant's Counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this matter. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the Undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975.

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02:49pm From-PILLSBURY WINTHROP

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The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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